

THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER

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BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING
TELEPHONE MAIN 368
Business or Editorial

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION
Per Year \$1.00
Advertising Rates on Application

Address All Communications to
THE OBSERVER, ST. JOSEPH, MO.

Editorial Staff

Entered at the Post Office in St. Joseph,
Missouri, as Second Class Mail Matter

AS TO NATIONAL DEFENSE
Last week Mayor Marshall called together at the city hall a representative assembly of St. Joseph business and professional men, and citizens for the purpose of discussing the question of preparation for national defense. The meeting adjourned to a date in the near future when Hon. Charles H. Tracy of Baltimore will be present and make an address on the question in point. As it is well known that he is a militarist and favorable to a great standing army and a vastly augmented navy, it is easy to pre-suppose that his address and recommendations will all be along that line and therefore there will be but little for those who do not believe as he does.

But in view of the fact that this question is now, through the activities of those who favor large increases, being brought prominently to the front, it is not out of place for this paper to give a little testimony on the problem from others and some from itself in order that all who desire may take a more intelligent stand on the position and its propriety to start right off with a quotation from a Right wing paper, the Chicago Herald which is giving sound advice to the Republican leaders on the attitude their party should take toward President Wilson's national defense program since:

There are plenty of party issues. There is and can be none in national defense. This question rises high above party and appeals to the patriotism of Democrats, Republicans and Progressive alike. It should be one clear issue from the leaders of all parties.

Now if the proposition can be well understood, there will be but one clear issue—and that will be not only from the leaders of all parties but from the great body of American people—and it ought well be predicated with the assertion that there is no one in this union with the exception of the manufacturers of arms and ammunition and distinctly war suppliers who either wants or desires war for this country.

And again with the further assertion that with the exception noted above, there is no one who wants this country to be aggressive.

But again there is an increasingly great number of those who realize that this great people with its immense riches, surrounded by an entire world trained to war and prepared for war, should itself prepare to defend itself and its position in this western world against aggression or bullying from either Europe or the Orient. The number is increasingly great of those who realize that absolute preparation against embitterment is a means of preserving peace and not of promoting war.

Woodrow Wilson is not a militarist. He is a pacifist. War is to him a thing abhorred. It has been his commanding ambition, as president, honorably to avoid it. It has further ambition to take the necessary steps to insure that war may be avoided when he is no longer president. In waging a stricken land and an improved army he is but accepting the hard facts of life as they are. He is a great task with an open hand. As president he has seen he has heard, he has learned. It is no weak yielding to the tumultuous heats of militarism in which he has indulged. He has not "sold out," or been influenced by the special interests that profit by war and the preparations for war. As a peaceful and peace-loving man he has been influenced solely by his patriotic duty as an American citizen and American president.

And as a Democrat and a patriot as well as the president proposes to set about national defense but not with a large standing army, simply an increase in the garrisons that now exist—and he wants this nation to rely as did Thomas Jefferson on a trained citizen soldier.

President Wilson's plan proposes that "not every man" as Jefferson thought, "should be a soldier"—a citizen soldier—but that in the course of the next decade or so one man in twenty, approximately, shall be given such elementary training in military instruction as will enable him to respond to the call to the colors if his country is in danger.

A standing army is composed of a body of men withdrawn from civil life and engaged solely in the study and practice of the arts of war. Such an army Jefferson feared and such an army Democrats ever since his day

have feared. Such armies, swollen to large proportions, lead directly to militarism. Jefferson favored training citizens for military duties. He was strongly for the militia—for the training of young men to bear arms, and in understanding the science of war, without their being withdrawn from their peaceful pursuits. He knew that from such an army—a reserve army engaged in commerce and industry and farming and the professions—no threat of militarism, no impulse toward war, could come.

That is what Woodrow Wilson realizes. That is why he proposes that 120,000 young men be called as volunteers annually to take military training for two months each year for two years, then to be classed as reserves subject to call any time within the next four years. Thus are to be created not professional soldiers, but citizens competent to serve as soldiers in case of necessity. Thus are to be created, furthermore, citizens trained to obey to accept discipline to subordinate themselves when necessary—splendid training for citizens as well as for soldiers.

That is the Wilson plan—and all of it. There may be modification of details but the idea will forever stand as embodying the national defense needs of a free and peace-loving people, a people animated by no thought of aggression but having the common sense to be prepared for their own defense and to desire to be prepared without compromising with the spirit of militarism. The better this plan is understood by the American people the better they will like it.

AS TO THAT "DUMPING" PROCESS

One of the things that the Republican politicians who are warning other nations against us for a reversal of a high tariff which, of course, would benefit business, are suggesting which were in such vogue before the Democratic congress put a stop to such absurd attempts in the constantly reiterated assertion that after the great disaster in Europe has been concluded the European industries will "dump" their products on the American markets at less than the cost of manufacture, which they claim would drive our own industries to the wall.

Of course every thinking man knows better but just as an example to these naysayers and to show them that American manufacturers who have their money invested in the business do not feel that way, let me cite from the following interview printed in the New York World with one of the largest and most experienced manufacturer of Connecticut who said:

Europe will be taxed so heavily for its war taxes that we shall have nothing to fear from competition with cheap labor for European wages will not be higher than here.

Commenting on this view of the situation the World interprets this comment parenthetically:

It would seem that Mr. Warner is not deeply interested in the fact that war has been adopted as a policy in American high tariff politics. The new thought is stand alone in that back-breaking tax base made for reduced costs of production. Also, that the soaring labor incomes from being puffed off in the battle field have created because the demand for labor in the work of reconstituting the war-torn countries the lower wage areas.

This would seem to be a fairly sensible fear of reducing to an absurdity the fears of the protectionists that this is as certain as death and that of that at the conclusion of the European war the countries who have been engaged in it will be saddled with a weight of taxation enormously exceeding that paid in this country, and that manufacturers will have to bear their full share of that burden.

It is just as certainly true that the number of men taken from productive industry and killed or maimed in the field of battle cannot be soon replaced. Under the ordinary operation of conditions the loss resulting to the labor market would make for higher and more wages.

It is likewise true that many industrial cities have been devastated or badly damaged and will have to be rebuilt or repaired. This will create an additional demand for both labor and capital.

Apart from that, thousands of cities, towns and villages and scores of thousands of farmsteads have been razed by war. Buildings will have to be replaced and reconstructed, making yet further demands for labor and capital.

And not only labor but capital—billions of capital—is being destroyed in the war. To meet greatly increased demands and necessities there will be a sadly diminished supply of both. This means higher interest rates as well as higher wages. And these mean an increased cost of living.

It is not easy to see how countries under these conditions are going to be able to flood our markets with "pauper labor products." Especially is it difficult to see when there is taken into consideration the additional fact that tariff duties will have to be paid, and that these will run comfortably all the

way from 20 to 50 per cent and those on upward.

If, however, such a danger may be imagined to exist, it will be a simple matter to guard against it by enacting the "anti-dumping" clause which was incorporated into the Underwood tariff law as introduced but stricken from it, without debate, in the house. Under the terms of that clause foreign goods imported and sold in the United States at less than the ordinary market price in the country of production would be subjected to such an additional tax as would make the "dumping" process impossible.

MORE CALAMITY HOWLER "ENCOURAGEMENT"

With such crisp and pertinent and substantial verified statements as these, a trade reviewer recognized as the most careful and the best informed authority on American business summaries his report for last week:

"Progress in trade and industry, especially of congressional proportions, in the larger lines cumulative expansion is the chief characteristic. Retail merchants show a stronger propensity to buy ahead. The steel trade goes on swinging around. The long-distance scarcity of railway cars is an actual fact. Labor is scarce in many lines.

And then just to show how sharp it is and talking vaguely or without facts to hand to prove his statement he gives examples like these:

Orders for steel rails to be delivered next year total 600,000 tons. Within the last few days orders have been placed for 100,000 freight cars and about 200 locomotives. Our export trade is nearing the seaboard, whether with products. The city is not ship-shut any kind of ships.

Imports are breaking for many hours to come over for the making of alcohol despite the growth of temperance. It is, however, for "imperial" not for the kind taken internally, as the prohibitionists need not be alarmed. The coal supplies in Detroit at the all the all time in the land—so only about as much coal as half the coal area.

A western railroad which has probably no "war order" traffic by its advertising record for the next two weeks on Friday with 10 cars in one day. Chinese where sales prove that business is good and getting better with the basis for future trade very sound. The roads are necessarily fragmented but these stories show how the world is showing. They justify the jealousy of another trade observer:

The biggest steel trade even seen and growing, the biggest export trade and growing, the highest prices and selling at almost highest prices; rail road earnings getting toward peak point.

When asked, "How are you getting along?" American business officially answers, "Very well, thank you."

It is now time for Charles E. Johnson and the other calamity howlers to take a fresh grip on the sailing rock and start up the chorus, "Come on, boys! All alone."

THE WISDOM OF PEACE

We are at peace with all the world and it would surely that the world will be satisfied. It will be welcomed—certainly of the United States since our president.

This is a sensible statement for several reasons. It comes from a source that perhaps the leading man of business in the United States and his sons equally reflect the sentiment of a large portion of the leaders of American industry. It contains the significant assertion that the present state of peace with "all the world" is the result of "wise policy." It reflects also the hope, yes the confident expectation, that nothing in our public life will be permitted to disturb this state of affairs.

Mr. Gary has summed up in about three lines the chief public service of President Wilson for the American people. The president's policy has not been one of ignominy or reward but reciprocity. It was conceived by a statesman. It was shaped with care. It was directed by a man of courage. It was the "wise policy" of Washington. It should have stayed and steadily carried through under the same conditions. For Washington, when beset by a similar position in the wars growing out of the French revolution, did not act differently.

Several state elections were held this week, but notwithstanding the result of some of them, it is inconceivable that the mass of the American people could desire by their votes to discredit and dislodge the "wise policy" of the president of the United States in maintaining peace with the world.

It seems a trifle strange that the News-Press should continually seek to stir up feeling against the German residents of this country. There is hardly an issue which does not speak of the Germans in a hostile or disreputable way. The News-Press should give its reasons for the hostility expressed—if it has any—which is extremely doubtful—unless, perhaps, they are personal.

Major Marshall seems to have a little trouble pouring the oil into the cup of his city hall political machine. There was not sufficient lubrication to get out a quorum of the city commissioners Tuesday night to add more Republican office holders to the city administration machine.

There are but six shopping weeks remaining before Christmas. Do your shopping now—and in St. Joseph.

Carrie Chapman Catt on Monday declared New York would give a majority of 547,000 for female suffrage the next day. It lost by 250,000. As Carrie only missed her guess by 19,000 she can still retain her place as champion American guess artist.

Gov. Capper is probably just as patriotic as any American and there are hundreds of thousands of other Americans just like him who do not think that it is necessary to spend untold millions for alleged "preparedness" in order to keep the ammunition makers busy.

Capt. Marsh's opinion of ex-Mayor Spratt who gave away the city river front so that there is no longer room for a boat landing, would not look well in print. The captain tried to land here Tuesday but could find no wharf room.

City Assessor George Tisch is doing nothing except what he is paid for when he goes after the personal tax dodgers. It is his duty and duty needs no commendation or high-blown.

There was some bump that the county court gave to those employees of the county who have heretofore drawn salary without giving value received therefore, and the judges did rightly.

Tammany came into its own again on Tuesday.

Do your Christmas shopping early.

Hello Miss November!

Sayings of Missouri Editors

And He Did—Didn't He?

Why shouldn't the President be able to write a heartfelt Thanksgiving proclamation?—Worth County Times.

And Is Worth About as Much

A dollar of Villa money is worth three cents American. That's making a hundred dollar bill look like thirty cents.—DeKalb Tribune.

Not When It Is Due, Cook

Now India has refused to let Dr. Cook climb Mt. Everest but there are other mountains. You can't keep a good man down. Hills County Record.

Henry Still One of the Bored

From later reports it seems that Henry Voseman of St. Joseph is still one of the bored but he hasn't resigned, and furthermore he says he won't. Nodaway Democratic Forum.

There Is No Help For It

Mrs. Ella Flagg Young will soon retire as superintendent of the Chicago schools and become a magazine writer, and there does not seem to be any help for it.—DeKalb Tribune.

To the Down-And-Out Society

To his obscure place in the down-and-out society, Mr. Winston Spencer Churchill is getting to welcome a lot of company.—Kansas City Times.

Japan Made No Improvement

Japs to Janore Christians.—Headline.

Still Japan has not made a much better record here of late than the Christian nations.—Kansas City Post.

And They Will Find It Too

We are unable at present to see any danger from invasion of this country unless it be by the Children of Israel, who may be looking for the Promised Land.—Nodaway Democratic Forum.

And They Will Still Howl

In the fact of the most prosperous condition the country as a whole has ever seen, the Calamity Jane who are running Republican newspapers still keep up their bawling.—Henry County Democrat.

Jackson County Is Going Some

The county spent \$1,200 a year in tires for each of its motor cars last year. But, of course, some of the roads the county has been building have been mighty hard on tires.—Kansas City Times.

The Dickey Barl Is Tapped

The Dickey barl was tapped not long since and the golden stream flowed in every direction is evinced by the simultaneous appearance of his picture and proclamation in practically every Republican paper in Missouri.—Henry County Democrat.

If the Bill Had Passed

If the last session of Congress had passed the "Shipping Bill" the President urged, the U. S. flag would now be floating over numerous vessels laden with the surplus products of our country. President Wilson seems at all times to possess a wonderful fund of foresight. He is so far in advance of the times that it takes months for the common herd to catch up with him.—Memphis Democrat.

DEMOCRATIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for Member of Congress from the Fourth Congressional District of Missouri, subject to the primary election, August 8, 1916.

ROBERT L. YOUNG.

The Uncharted Joke

In predicting that Roosevelt will be the Republican nominee for president next year it is not quite clear whether Champ Clark was trying to joke Roosevelt or the Republicans. It is evidently a joke on somebody, and it Champ didn't intend it as such it is on himself.—Kansas City Journal.

But Such Is Life

Yes, Julia, we have noticed that a man's wife always thinks the Lord for the things he has to pay for. And we have also noticed that most of the time he has to bustle like the devil to get the money. But such is life.—Milan Standard.

An Invasion of "Brave Britons"

This country is threatened with an immediate invasion of swarms of "Brave Britons" who are coming here to escape the possibility of conscription. We have enough undesirables now, and certainly have no welcome to offer English tourists who run from a threat of forced service in the army.—Glasgow Missourian.

Beware of the Peddler

A peddler pretending to be a Belgian has been working farmers in eastern Kansas selling suit patterns, alleging the cloth is imported and that a tailor will follow who will make up the suit for \$5. Too late the farmer finds the cloth is the cheapest American made shoddy. It's always safe to bump the peddler.—Marceline Mirror.

Now Is the Time to "Get In"

Representative Boyd of Monroe County has announced that he will not be a candidate for reelection to the lower house of the Missouri assembly. This will leave the speakership of the next house open and candidates are in order.—Nodaway Democratic Forum.

And Ford a Peace Apostle?

That Henry Ford is proudly and that his Canadian company would subscribe the first \$1,000,000 to the Canadian war loan is an official announcement coming from Toronto. And yet Mr. Ford poses as a peace apostle. To a man up a tree this has the appearance of grand-standing.—Atchison County Mail.

Get in Herby! We Wait

The Democrats seem to be afraid that Bradley will decide to run for governor. He is a campaigner second to none in the west and is familiar with the road leading to Jefferson City, having been "there." It would seem that the governorship is his for the asking.—Hopkins Journal.

Are You in the List?